

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 303**

LCO No. 3368

**AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENTREPRENEUR LEARNER'S PERMIT
PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) There is established an
2 Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program that shall be
3 administered by Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated during the
4 fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018. The purpose of the
5 program shall be to encourage and assist first-time entrepreneurs in
6 starting new information services, biotechnology and green technology
7 businesses by providing reimbursements to such entrepreneurs for any
8 state filing, permitting or licensing fees associated with the formation
9 of such a business in the state. For purposes of this section, "the
10 corporation" means Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated.

11 (b) Applicants for participation in the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit
12 program shall apply to the corporation in a form and manner
13 prescribed by the corporation prior to the formation of the business for
14 which the entrepreneur seeks reimbursement of such fees. The
15 corporation shall establish criteria for the review and approval of
16 applications, provided it (1) shall give priority to female and minority
17 applicants, and (2) shall not approve any application by a person who
18 will not be a first-time business owner. Reimbursements under this
19 section shall be provided in the manner determined by the

20 corporation.

21 (c) The aggregate amount of all reimbursements provided by the
22 corporation pursuant to this section shall not exceed five hundred
23 thousand dollars in either of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, or
24 June 30, 2018.

25 (d) On or before February 1, 2018, the corporation shall conduct a
26 review of the cumulative effectiveness of the Entrepreneur Learner's
27 Permit program. Such review shall include, but not be limited to, the
28 number and type of Connecticut businesses that were formed in
29 connection with the program, the current status of each business
30 formed in connection with the program, the number of employees
31 employed by each such business, the economic impact to the state
32 from the program, the satisfaction of participants in the program and a
33 recommendation as to whether the program should be continued
34 beyond June 30, 2018. Such review shall be submitted to the joint
35 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
36 matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of
37 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	New section